

I have carefully considered the criteria identified in sections 501 and 502 of the Trade Act of 1974. In light of these criteria, I have determined that it is appropriate to extend GSP benefits to the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

This notice is submitted in accordance with section 502(a)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974.

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
March 17, 1995.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 24.

### **Statement on Action in the House of Representatives on Welfare Reform**

*March 24, 1995*

At a time when so many Americans without regard to party agree on the need for welfare reform, it's a shame the House of Representatives could not produce a real welfare reform plan that would promote work and responsibility and attract broad bipartisan support. I am disappointed that instead of joining in a real, bipartisan effort to move people from welfare to work, a narrow partisan Republican majority passed a bill that is weak on work and tough on children.

I am determined to work with Republicans and Democrats in Congress to produce the kind of welfare reform Americans, regardless of party affiliation, want and expect. To end welfare as we know it, we must be tough on work and tough on deadbeat parents not tough on children.

I commend the House of Representatives on one part of the bill that enjoyed true bipartisan support—tough measures on child support enforcement, including refusing drivers' and professional licenses to deadbeat parents who refuse to pay child support. The House passed every major child support element of our welfare reform plan, which will enable us to mount the toughest child support enforcement crackdown in history. It is time to demand responsibility from parents who bring children into the world, not let

them off the hook and expect taxpayers to pick up the tab for their neglect.

Welfare reform can and must be a bipartisan issue. I look forward to working with Republicans and Democrats in the Senate to pass real welfare reform that will make work and responsibility the law of the land.

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### **Digest of Other White House Announcements**

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The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

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#### **March 19**

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister John Major of the United Kingdom.

#### **March 20**

In an afternoon ceremony in the Oval Office, the President received diplomatic credentials from the following Ambassadors: Abdulla Bin Mohamed Al-Dhahab of Oman; Jorge G. Prieto of Paraguay; Franklin Sonn of South Africa; Mahamat Saleh Ahmat of Chad; Jayantha C. B. Dhanapala of Sri Lanka; Kun Woo Park of South Korea; Courtney N.M. Blackman of Barbados; Corentino Virgillio Santos of Cape Verde; Severin Ntahomvukiye of Burundi; Jesus Silva Herzog of the United Mexican States; Hadj Osmane Bencherif of Algeria; Willie Chokani of Malawi; Basudev Prasad Dhungana of Nepal.

The President announced that he will lead a National Rural Conference on the future of America's rural communities on April 25 in Ames, Iowa.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jerome A. Stricker to be a member of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board.

The White House announced the President will visit Russia and Ukraine on May 9–11 to attend ceremonies marking the 50th anniversary of V-E Day and for bilateral discussions with President Boris Yeltsin of Rus-

sia and President Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine.

The White House announced the President has invited Prime Minister John Major of the United Kingdom to make an official working visit to Washington, DC, on April 3–4.

### **March 21**

The President announced his intention to appoint Peter Chase Neumann as a member of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

The President announced his intention to appoint Joseph T. Gorman and Richard Notebaert to be members of the President's Export Council.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals to be members of the National Selective Service Appeals Board:

- Betsy Levine;
- Leo M. Romero;
- James Roosevelt, Jr.;
- Jan Craig Scruggs;
- Barbara W. White.

### **March 22**

The President announced his intention to appoint Anne-Lee Verville to the National Skill Standards Board.

The President announced his intention to appoint Kitty Dukakis to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council.

The President announced the appointment of Secretary of Defense William J. Perry as the Chairman of the 1995 Interagency Savings Bonds Committee.

The White House announced the President has made available \$57.8 million in emergency funding to provide assistance to Georgia and Florida in recovering from the damage caused by Tropical Storm Alberto and subsequent flooding.

### **March 23**

The White House announced the appointment of William C. Danvers as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Legislative Affairs at the National Security Council.

The President announced his intention to appoint Walter Parker as the academic representative to the Arctic Research Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals to be members of the Advisory Committee on the Arts of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts:

- Patricia Staunton Etchart;
- Meghan Zanolli Holbrook;
- John P. Manning;
- Cherri D. Roden;
- Ann M. DeLaney;
- Kandy Stroud.

### **March 24**

In the morning, the President went to the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, MD, where he underwent a routine physical examination.

The President announced his intention to appoint Jimmie Lou Fisher to be a public member of the Rural Telephone Bank Board.

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## **Nominations Submitted to the Senate**

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The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

### **Submitted March 23**

Mary S. Furlong,  
of California, to be a member of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science for a term expiring July 19, 1999, vice Daniel W. Casey, term expired.

Jeffrey M. Lang,  
of Maryland, to be Deputy United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador, vice Rufus Hawkins Yerxa, resigned.

Jerome A. Stricker,  
of Kentucky, to be a member of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board for a term expiring September 25, 1998, vice Shirley Chilton-O'Dell, term expired.

Carlos F. Lucero,  
of Colorado, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit, a new position.